

PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS

IN CHARGE OF
LUCY L. DROWN

THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

BY AGNES CURTIS
New York

BETWEEN the hours of eight and nine on week-day mornings one may see a Fifth-Avenue stage jogging merrily along the avenues and cross-streets of the upper East-Side district of New York. What can have caused this familiar vehicle to stray so far from its accustomed course? If you watch, you will see it stop before one of the many tenement-houses, from which a little crippled child is carried and carefully placed within. Or, standing ready on the door-step, a merry little fellow on crutches is eagerly watching its approach, or a little girl, supported on her iron brace, without which she would be almost helpless, is excitedly waving her hand to the children who have already been called for. So the great bus goes from house to house until it is filled with boys and girls, whose merry, laughing faces almost make one forget the poor little crippled bodies. What does it all mean? Simply that the Children's Aid Society has opened a class for cripples in the Rhineland School, 350 East Eighty-eighth Street, and has chosen this way of conveyance until some kind friend will come forward and provide a wagonette for the children that will be more comfortable and better adapted to the purpose.

And now, if you follow this strange picnic, you will find yourself in a bright school-room where the little ones are greeted by a smiling, white-gowned nurse and a teacher, who have charge of the children for the day.

After the morning exercises, the braces are looked to, abscesses dressed, straps changed, etc., and each child is made as comfortable as skilled care can make him.

This is exclusively a class for cripples, and to keep them busy and happy, to teach them something useful, and to lead them in such exercises and games as may not overtax the weak little bodies is the work of the ever-watchful teacher and nurse.

During the noon-hour the children are served with a wholesome luncheon, and for a while nothing is heard but their merry voices mingled with the clatter of spoons and bowls. Then some songs and games until time for the afternoon work. At two o'clock the children are ready for their ride home, and thus ends one happy day spent in the Eighty-eighth Street school.

During the summer the class is taken to Bath Beach, where the Children's Aid Society has a Summer Home, and where there is a cottage expressly built for cripples. There they stay, in charge of the nurse, for three weeks, gaining health and strength in the fresh seabreezes. Little, pale cheeks become round and rosy, dull eyes bright, and they return to their parents healthy and brown and full of wonderful experiences to relate.

The Children's Aid Society is the pioneer in this much-needed educational work among cripples who are not physically fitted to take their place among the robust children of the public schools, and has provided not only a teacher, but a nurse trained in orthopaedic work, who understands the children and their limitations, and who is fitted to give the daily attention which is absolutely necessary in many cases.

CARE OF NIPPLES

IN caring for the nipples of the nursing mother great harm is often done by mistaken methods of cleansing. Nasty-tasting lotions are often applied by stupid nurses, who then wonder why the babies dislike to take hold. No washes are allowable; olive oil or lanoline should be used instead. And then for a protecting dressing tallow and beeswax or the raw white of an egg should be freely applied. Cracks and excoriations will then be astonishingly infrequent, but if either torturing accident occurs, immediate attention is demanded. After thoroughly disinfecting with boracic acid lotion (five per cent.) and anæsthetizing with cocaine, the crack and raw surface should be treated with a ten-per-cent. solution of silver nitrate, then dried by pressure of absorbent cotton and painted over with egg-albumin. For the next few nursings a glass-bell nipple-shield should be used. Thus by scrupulous care mothers can be saved from tortures that they too often suffer, and then it becomes far easier to persuade them to continue nursing their babies in accordance with the design of the Creator.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.